

Judge Linwood Koger, 84, lawyer, civil rights leader

BALTIMORE

Residents from all walks of life, who remembered his distinctive contributions to the civic, fraternal and legal life of Baltimore, attended Tuesday noon services at Union Baptist Church for Linwood Graves Koger Sr.

The 84-year-old attorney, onetime magistrate at Northwestern Police Station, and pioneer civil rights leader, died Friday at the House In The Pines.

Until his last illness, he lived at 2106 Bryant Ave., in northwest Baltimore.

At the Tuesday Service of Memory, the pastor, the Rev. Vernon N. Dobson, said: —

"He seemed to have such a tremendous history and I guess this was true because he was so much a part of the making of the history of many institutions and groups that affected the life of black people in America.

"He had a heart of wisdom because he understood that to really be human is to participate, to be human is to persevere, or to be persistent in your participation. To be human is to be caught up in a prayer life that dramatizes your belief in the ultimate reality of the Eternal.

"While his fellow North Carolinian, Sen. Sam Ervin gets the applause the acclaim of the news media, Linwood Koger gets ours because he gave so much for so many people.

"Little people who came to his court got a sense of justice where they had not gotten this before. One fellow even told me while I was probation officer that he would much rather have his sentence than the sermon.

"I interpreted this to mean that he was so deeply interested in people that he was practicing a kind of socialized justice, before it even became practical."



LINWOOD G. KOGER, SR.

The Rev. Baxter L. Matthews, pastor-emeritus, presided at the 45-minute services which featured music by the church choir, where Mr. Koger sang for many years, William Sydnor was at the organ.

A substantial number of friends and relatives also were present for Monday evening fraternal services, also held at the church.

Over four dozen floral pieces surrounded the flag-draped casket.

Honorary pallbearers included judges, lawyers, and members of the numerous organizations with which Mr. Koger was affiliated.

Active pallbearers were: Dr. Edward McDaniels, Gerald Smith, Patrolman Officer Murdock, Haskar Guntharp, Bernard Bias and James Parker. Morton-Dyett Funeral Home was in charge.

Relatives and friends occupied 23 cars which had a police escort for the trip to Arbutus Memorial Park.

Mr. Koger was admitted

to practice Law before the Bar of the United States Supreme Court in 1954. He was Magistrate of Northwestern Police Court from 1955 to 1959, by appointment of Gov. Theodore McKeldin. He was Assistant City Solicitor for Baltimore City from 1944 to 1948, by appointment of Mayor Theodore Roosevelt McKeldin.

In 1930, Mr. Koger was one of the earliest black candidates for the Maryland State Legislature. In 1954, he was the first serious black candidate for the Republican nomination for United States Congress from Maryland.

In 1941, by appointment of Governor Herbert R. O'Connor, Sr., he was member of the Governor's Commission Studying Problems Affecting Colored People.

From 1927 to 1930, he was President of the Baltimore Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. In 1923, he was one of the founders of the Morgan College Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the graduate chapter there.

From 1935 to 1937, he was Senior Vice Commander of the American Legion, Maryland Department. He was Commander, Walter Green Post, American Legion, 1933 to 1936.

He was President of the Monumental City Bar Association in 1941, 1942, 1953, 1954 and 1955.

From 1934 to 1944, he was instructor, Men's Bible Class, Union Baptist Church. He was a Trustee of Union Baptist from 1930 to 1941.

He was a member of the Republican Lawyers' Club of Maryland, Citizens Planning and Housing Association, 33rd degree Mason, Hiram Grand Lodge.